

IN THE CLAIMS

A clean version of the rewritten, added and/or cancelled claims with instructions for entry pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(i) is included beginning on page two of this communication. A marked-up version of the rewritten, added, and/or cancelled claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii) is attached as Appendix I. A clean version of the entire set of pending claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(3) is attached at Appendix II.

Please cancel Claim 2.

Please substitute the following Claims for the previously pending Claims.

CLAIMS

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1. A method for detecting the presence of a folded target in a sample, comprising:
 - a) providing:
 - i) a sample suspected of containing a folded target having a deoxyribonucleic acid sequence comprising one or more double stranded regions and one or more single stranded regions; and
 - ii) a plurality of oligonucleotide probes complementary to at least a portion of said folded target; and
 - b) mixing said folded target and said plurality of probes under conditions such that said plurality of probes hybridize to said folded target to form probe/folded target complexes; and
 - c) detecting said probe/folded target complexes to detect the presence of said folded target in said sample.

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4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said plurality of probes in said probe/folded target complexes are hybridized to single stranded regions of said folded target.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of probes comprises an oligonucleotide having a moiety that permits its capture by a solid support.

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6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said detecting said probe/folded target complexes comprises exposing said probe/folded target complexes to a solid support under conditions such that said oligonucleotide having a moiety is captured by said solid support.

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9. The method of Claim 1, wherein said folded target comprises a deoxyribonucleic acid sequence having a moiety that permits its capture by a solid support.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein said detecting said probe/folded target complexes comprises exposing said probe/folded target complexes to a solid support under conditions such that said folded target is captured by said solid support.

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12. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of probes is labelled.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of probes is attached to a solid support.

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16. The method of Claim 15, wherein said first probe in step d) does not substantially hybridize to said second folded target.

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23. The method of Claim 22, wherein said first probe in said second testing zone does not substantially hybridize to said second folded target.
